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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Before the Examiner:

Shai-San Gong, et al.

Lilian Vo

Serial No.: 09/316,754

Group Art Unit: 2127

Filed: May 21, 1999

IBM Corporation

Title: EFFICIENT SCHEMA FOR

Intellectual Property Law

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

JAN 2 1 2004

Technology Center 2100

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of November 13, 2003 (Paper No. 9), with a three-month statutory period for response set to expire on February 13, 2004, please reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following remarks:

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 13, 2004.

Toni Stanley

(Printed name of person certifying)

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